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Governor Martin O'Malley and Maryland General Assembly Take a Fiscally Responsible Approach to Blunt Impact of Sequester on Marylanders

September 4th, 2013

Maryland Legislative Policy Committee approves Administration's budget amendment to support critical programs and services in Maryland

Governor and General Assembly act in face of Congress' inaction on federal sequestration

ANNAPOLIS, MD - Governor Martin O'Malley and the Maryland General Assembly have taken swift action to protect Maryland's safety net from the effects of federal sequestration, which is a series of automatic cuts mandated by law that threaten job creation and reduce vital services for families and children in Maryland and across the nation. The Maryland Legislative Policy Committee recently approved the O'Malley-Brown Administration's proposed budget amendment that appropriates nearly \$9 million in dedicated funds to support critical programs and services impacted by federal sequestration.

"Congress' senseless sequester and the resulting job-killing cuts are threatening our economic progress in Maryland and putting vulnerable Marylanders at risk," **said Governor O'Malley**. "We were aware that Congress might make this mistake, so together with our partners in the General Assembly, we took emergency action and allocated \$100 million in this year's budget to protect Marylanders against the harm that these arbitrary cuts would cause to important initiatives like Head Start and Meals on Wheels. Since Congress has failed to fix its mistake, we're now investing approximately \$9 million of the money we set aside to help Marylanders by delivering meals to seniors, ensuring young children can continue early education, and restoring other vital services."

Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr. added: "Maryland responsibly set aside \$100 million in the Dedicated Purpose Account last session to ensure it would be available for this year's budget to deal with the multiple effects the State is experiencing as a result of the sequester. We will continue to work together and be responsible at the State level but it is time for the federal government to do the same."

"Congress's continued inaction on sequestration is hammering state budgets and service delivery to those who need it most," **said House Speaker Michael E. Busch**. "The arbitrary cuts are disproportionately affecting low-income working people, who are most in need of safety net services to support their families. In Maryland, we made the prudent decision to plan for the impact of these cuts and backfill \$100 million in the State's budget. Now is the time for Congress to act, so that states can continue their economic recovery."

[The Governor continues to urge action in Congress to avoid these job-killing cuts.](#) The Governor's FY 2014 budget, passed by the General Assembly, allocates \$100 million to prepare for the impact of federal sequestration in Maryland. In total, the FY 2014 budget

preserves more than \$1 billion in cash resources between the fund balance and the increase in the Rainy Day Fund.

The nearly \$9 million in investments will be distributed to State agencies to restore critical programs and services to Marylanders. Nearly 500 low-income children will be able to participate in Head Start programs that will prepare them to enter school ready to learn (\$4.1 million). Approximately 3,000 individuals will receive the substance abuse prevention and treatment services they need (\$1.6 million). Approximately 3,000 older adults will receive 180,000 meals, 2,500 seniors will have access to health screenings, and 200 seniors will be provided with home and community-based services, including personal care and adult day care. (\$1.4 million). Fifty individuals in need of vocational rehabilitation services will receive those services without delay (\$800,000). Approximately 7,000 people will receive job placement and training assistance (\$500,000). Seventy-five adult education classes serving about 800 students will be offered as planned (\$400,000).

"I am so proud of Governor O'Malley, Lt. Governor Brown and the entire Maryland General Assembly for taking action to protect Maryland's jobs and Maryland's safety net from the reckless cuts of the sequester," **said Senator Barbara A. Mikulski**. "Sequestration sets Maryland and our Nation back instead of putting us on the road to prosperity. That's why, as Chairwoman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I'm fighting for a balanced solution to end sequester. Sequester is not the new normal. Instead, we must continue to invest in Maryland and America — in our infrastructure and in our people — to create jobs for today and jobs for tomorrow."

"Maryland's most vulnerable citizens have been paying the price for this irrational, meat-ax approach to deficit reduction called sequestration. I commend Governor O'Malley and our state leaders for stepping in to ensure that Maryland's seniors, children and families in need still have a safety net to see them through critical times," **said Senator Ben Cardin, a member of the Senate Finance Committee**. "Sequestration is bad policy that hurts real families. We must replace it with a sensible, balanced federal budget that invests in our future and returns us to a time of strong, reliable federal-state partnership."

"I applaud the decision made by Governor O'Malley and the Maryland General Assembly to make new funds available to reduce the impact of sequestration on our state – but I certainly wish this action had not been necessary," **Congressman Elijah Cummings said**. "The senseless cuts required by sequestration are threatening essential services and undermining our nation's competitiveness and I will continue to work to end these cuts and put in place a balanced approach to deficit reduction."

"While it is unacceptable that Congress has failed to take action to replace sequestration, today's announcement is welcome news," **stated Congressman Steny Hoyer**. "I'm pleased that the O'Malley-Brown administration, in partnership with the Maryland General Assembly, has taken important steps to provide relief to Maryland families, seniors, the vulnerable, and others affected by this irrational process. I continue to believe Congress must replace the sequester in its entirety with a balanced alternative, and I urge Members on both sides of the aisle to work toward such an agreement as soon as possible."

"Governor O'Malley and the General Assembly have taken important action to mitigate the damaging impacts of sequestration on Maryland families and communities, but Congress must take up legislation to avoid further harm. I have tried to offer a plan to responsibly replace the sequester seven times this year, but have been consistently denied a vote by House Republican leadership. It is time for Congress to stop passing the buck to states and craft a federal budget that ends the arbitrary meat-ax cuts of sequestration and funds critical services like Head Start, job training, and Meals on Wheels," **said Congressman Chris Van Hollen**.

Federal sequestration poses a threat to Maryland's ability to create jobs and expand opportunity. Working together, the State has now recovered 94 percent of the jobs lost in the national recession. In 2013, Maryland has created 17,800 new jobs posting job gains in five out

of seven months. Over the past 12 months, the State has created 39,000 new jobs. Maryland's dynamic private sector is leading our job growth creating 9 out of every 10 new jobs at a rate nearly 20 percent faster than Virginia.

Because of the better choices made together, Maryland stands as one of only nine states with a Triple A bond rating affirmed by all three bond rating agencies – a seal of fiscal responsibility. Since taking office, the O'Malley-Brown Administration, in partnership with the General Assembly, has limited average annual budget growth to the lowest level in recent history (2%), made record level cuts to State spending (in excess of \$8.6 billion), and nearly eliminated the State's structural budget deficit while continuing to target investments in job creation, public education and other shared priorities.

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Governor O'Malley Announces Nearly \$1.5 Billion in Transportation Investments for Baltimore Metropolitan Region

September 4th, 2013

Investments will support more than 13,000 jobs, reduce traffic congestion, and revitalize communities

BALTIMORE, MD – Governor Martin O'Malley today announced nearly \$1.5 billion in transportation investments for the Baltimore Metropolitan Region that will support more than 13,000 jobs, reduce traffic congestion, and revitalize communities. Governor O'Malley was joined by Lt. Governor Anthony G. Brown, U.S. Congressman Elijah E. Cummings, U.S. Congressman John Sarbanes, Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Howard County Executive Ken Ulman, and other key officials. Standing at West Baltimore MARC station, a future station on the Red Line, the Governor highlighted \$689 million in investments for the Red Line project, including \$519 million for construction.

"Thanks to the better choices we've made together, we've been able to put hardworking Marylanders back to work," **said Governor O'Malley**. "That didn't happen by accident. To create jobs, a modern economy requires modern investments like the ones we are announcing today for the Baltimore region."

"Addressing our transportation needs here in Baltimore, and throughout Maryland, remains one of the toughest challenges we face as a state," **said Lt. Governor Anthony Brown**. "As we look to the future, we must remain committed to building a 21st century transportation network that supports a growing, 21st century economy. The projects we're announcing today are an important step towards ensuring that our state remains economically competitive, and Marylanders spend less time and money sitting in traffic."

Governor O'Malley today also delivered on his promise to launch the first-ever MARC Train weekend service by announcing service will start on Saturday, December 7, 2013 on the Penn Line. Saturday will offer nine round trips between Penn Station in Baltimore and Union Station in Washington, D.C. Sunday will offer six round trips between Penn Station and Union Station.

With the Transportation Infrastructure Investment Act of 2013, which allows Maryland to activate long-term strategies to invest in Maryland's transportation systems, the State is putting people back to work in the transportation industry with \$4.4 billion in new investments in the next six years. Maryland will create hundreds of millions of dollars in economic activity and provide Marylanders with the transportation infrastructure necessary to grow and prosper for decades to come.

Today's announcement provides nearly \$1.5 billion in key projects for the Baltimore Metropolitan Region, including:

- \$46 million to operate the first-ever MARC Train weekend service. Service on the Penn Line will start on Saturday, December 7, 2013, and will provide nine round trips on Saturdays and six round trips on Sundays;
- \$52 million for MARC Commuter Rail improvements to purchase 10 new diesel locomotives and to add two daily round trips to weekday service on the MARC Camden Line;
- \$689 million in State funds for right-of-way acquisition, final design and to initiate construction of the Red Line (\$170 million for right way and final design and \$519 million for construction);
- \$246 million to replace Baltimore Metro Subway's 100 railcar fleet and 15 miles of signaling systems;
- \$75 million in construction funds to build a new Kirk Bus Division transportation and storage building in Baltimore City;
- \$12 million in operating assistance (FY 2014-2019) for the Charm City Circulator in Baltimore City;
- \$29 million in right-of-way funds to reconstruct the existing MD 175 / MD 295 interchange near Ft. Meade in Anne Arundel County;
- \$43 million in construction funds to improve key intersections along access routes to Aberdeen Proving Ground in Harford County;
- \$29 million in construction funds to make safety improvements on I-695 at the Harford Road interchange in Baltimore County;
- \$60 million in construction funds to improve traffic flow on I-695 at Leeds Avenue and replace two bridges in this vicinity in Baltimore County;
- \$86 million in construction funds to widen I-695 Outer Loop from US 40 to MD 144 in Baltimore County;
- \$8 million in construction funds to build a sound wall along I-95 near the Lawyers Hill Community in Howard County;
- \$20 million in construction funds to provide streetscape improvements to MD 30 Business in Hampstead in Carroll County;
- \$3 million in right-of-way funds to widen MD 140 at Painters Mill Road in Baltimore County;
- \$7 million in construction funds to provide streetscape improvements to MD 755 in Edgewood in Harford County;
- \$48 million in construction funds to widen US 29 northbound in Howard County; and
- \$2 million planning project to examine adding a fourth lane on eastbound US 50 over the Severn River Bridge from Rowe Boulevard to MD 2 and other improvements to reduce traffic congestion at this well-known bottleneck in Anne Arundel County.

"A reliable and well maintained infrastructure is vital to create jobs today in construction and jobs tomorrow through economic growth," **said U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski, Chairwoman of the Senate Appropriations Committee.** "These public investments in Baltimore's transportation infrastructure are smart funding that is laying the groundwork for our future. Maryland can count on me to keep fighting for our state's fair share of federal formula funding to help pay for improvements to our highways, byways and transit systems."

"Marylanders currently waste too much time, money and gas in gridlock. I'm proud that the federal government has been a strong partner with Maryland to modernize and add affordable, convenient transportation choices connecting Maryland communities with the places we live, work and play," **said U.S. Senator Ben Cardin, a member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Transportation Infrastructure Subcommittee.** "Robust investments in transportation infrastructure, including roads, rails and trails, are investments in job creation and economic development across the region."

"Once completed, these transportation investments will allow thousands of our neighbors throughout the Region to reach good jobs at a commuter cost that they can better afford," **U.S. Congressman Elijah E. Cummings said.** "Baltimore and Washington will both progress as MARC riders gain convenient access to MARC travel on the weekends. Howard County's residents will travel on US 29 more efficiently and safely; and Baltimore City's transit system will become more modern and better maintained. Our Governor, Lt. Governor and local leaders have understood these challenges and acted accordingly. For that, they deserve our appreciation and applause."

"These projects are exactly the type of common sense investments government should be prioritizing in this difficult economy. Investing in infrastructure – especially mass transit – is one of the smartest things we can do to create jobs, increase the competitiveness of American businesses and keep people and products on the move," **said U.S. Congressman C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger.** "Every American business and worker relies on safe, dependable and efficient transit and I am proud of the teamwork on that federal, state, local and private level that will get these projects moving."

"Building an efficient, safe, and reliable transportation network is critical to continued economic growth and making sure Marylanders can get where they need to go," **said U.S. Congressman John Sarbanes.** "I will continue working with Governor O'Malley and my colleagues in the Maryland Congressional delegation to make investments that improve our physical infrastructure for the next generation while creating jobs and expanding our economy."

"Today is about showing the state that Baltimore City wants the Red Line and understands that building an integrated, world class transit system is critical for creating jobs and providing citizens with better access to those jobs," Mayor Rawlings-Blake said. "These critical investments are the key to unlocking Baltimore's potential to grow and will create a regional transportation system that connects Baltimore to major job centers in surrounding communities."

"These projects, whether aimed at road safety, relieving congestion, or improving access to sustainable transit options all contribute to job creation, the health of our business community and a better quality of life for our citizens," **said House Speaker Michael E. Busch.**

"No County is more affected by traffic on the Beltway than Baltimore County," **said Baltimore County Executive Kevin Kamenetz.** "I am very pleased that Governor O'Malley is funding more than \$130 million for a variety of projects that will directly impact the lives of the thousands of commuters in the County. These improvements will also create thousands of jobs helping families and businesses all across the region. "

Over the summer months, Governor O'Malley announced a series of projects across the State made possible by the Transportation Act. The Maryland Department of Transportation's (MDOT) draft six-year transportation budget was published yesterday. This budget, known as the Consolidated Transportation Program, provides a full list of the new projects funded by the Transportation Act. See attached \$4.4 billion list of new projects. This budget is posted on MDOT's website at www.mdot.maryland.gov.

About the Red Line

The Red Line is a 14.1-mile, east-west light rail link connecting Woodlawn in Baltimore County to the Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center campus on the east side of Baltimore City. The

Red Line is a crucial part of Baltimore's comprehensive transit network as it will provide key connections to north-south light rail lines, Metro Subway, MARC train and numerous bus lines.

The Red Line also will play an integral role in a Baltimore Regional transit system that connects people to employment centers, hospitals, restaurants, sports venues and cultural districts, and takes people to where they want to go. The Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) completed the Red Line's Final Environmental Impact Statement in December 2012, and the Federal Transit Administration issued its Record of Decision in March 2013.

MTA intends to develop the Red Line using a primarily design-bid-build approach, and award a sequence of contracts according to a contract packaging plan. The exception is a group of project elements that could be delivered through a public-private partnership (P3), a long-term, performance-based agreement between MTA and a private entity where appropriate risks and benefits will be allocated in a cost-effective manner between the contractual partners. Design-bid-build contracts will be utilized to deliver the majority of project elements including tunnels, structures, surface segments, surface and underground stations, elevators and escalators, utility relocations and stormwater management facilities. A group of transit elements will be examined for third-party P3 provision to include the railcars, operations center and maintenance facility, track, signals, and power, as well as maintenance of those elements. The private entity would be responsible for designing, constructing, operating, and maintaining the specific assets that are within the scope of the rolling stock and systems elements of the overall project. In return, MDOT will pay the private entity periodic payments, subject to performance deductions, which will provide strong incentives for the concessionaire to deliver high quality service for the assets under its responsibility. The Red Line is proposed to be funded with Transportation Trust Funds, federal funds, regional contributions and investments by the private entity. Pending funding, construction could start as early as 2015 and be open for service by 2021. Daily ridership in 2030 is forecast to be 54,000.

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Statement from Governor Martin O'Malley on NAACP President Ben Jealous

September 8th, 2013

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Governor Martin O'Malley today issued the following statement on National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) President Ben Jealous's decision to step down as head of the NAACP at the end of the year:

"Under Ben Jealous's leadership, the NAACP has continued its fight for fairness and equality across our nation. He has served as a voice for those whose voices have been silenced, and a remarkable example of what we can do together for justice and opportunity."

"Ben shares our belief in the dignity of every individual. Thanks to his unwavering partnership in Maryland, together, we've been able to move our State forward. Ben has helped us repeal the death penalty, pass the Dream Act, ensure marriage equality, and expand voting in our State – among so many other great achievements."

"I wish Ben well in his future endeavors."

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Governor O'Malley Joins Vice President Biden to Highlight Investments at Port of Baltimore

September 9th, 2013

Rebuilding our infrastructure creates jobs and allows Maryland to compete in a modern economy

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Governor O'Malley today joined Vice President Joseph Biden at the Port of Baltimore to highlight the \$10 million in federal grants given to Maryland through the U.S. Department of Transportation's Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER), which will improve our infrastructure and strengthen our economy for middle class families. During the event, the two were joined by U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx, U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski, U.S. Senator Ben Cardin, U.S. Congressman John Sarbanes, U.S. Congressman Dutch Ruppersberger, U.S. Congressman Elijah Cummings, and other elected officials.

The TIGER grant program allows for the Port of Baltimore to increase its cargo handling capacity and provide rail access at its Fairfield Marine Terminal.

"With today's announcement, we are rebuilding our infrastructure in order to compete in a modern economy," **said Governor O'Malley**. "Together, with the Obama Administration and our federal partners, we're moving the Port of Baltimore forward, creating jobs and connecting our State with cities and ports half a world away."

Better choices lead to better results. By partnering with our private sector, together we are creating 5,700 jobs and preparing our port to take on the New Panamax ships that will be headed up the coast in the coming years. What's more, with the Transportation Infrastructure Investment Act of 2013, Maryland is activating long-term strategies to invest in Maryland's transportation systems, and supporting 57,200 jobs with \$4.4 billion in new investments in the next six years.

Click [here](#) or see attached one-pager to learn more how Governor O'Malley is investing in Maryland's infrastructure to create jobs and expand opportunity at the Port of Baltimore.

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Governor Martin O'Malley Kicks Off 2013 Day to Serve

September 11th, 2013

Encourages all Marylanders to get involved and serve their local community

BALTIMORE, MD – Governor Martin O'Malley today joined partners and community members from across the state at a rally to kick off Maryland's 2013 Day to Serve, a two week initiative that encourages all Marylanders to participate in service projects to help their neighbors, their communities and the environment. Today is the National Day of Service and Remembrance.

Governor O'Malley joined more than 100 Day to Serve partners at today's rally at the Baltimore Community ToolBank, which lends tools to charitable organizations for use in service projects.

"Starting September 15th, we'll work together as a community – as Marylanders and Virginians, West Virginians and Washingtonians – to harness the incredible power of service," **Governor O'Malley said**. "Marylanders are a compassionate, generous people who know the way forward can be found by helping our neighbors in need. For the second year in a row, we encourage all our citizens to join us in recognizing the connections between the health of our people, and the health of our land, water and air. Together, we can eradicate hunger, and protect and restore our environment."

From September 15th to September 29, Marylanders, along with our neighbors in Virginia, West Virginia and Washington, D.C., will participate in hunger relief, environmental relief, community service and other projects.

In 2012, Day to Serve was a huge success in Maryland, with more than 4,700 volunteers contributing more than 12,000 hours to 200 service events. The 2013 Day to Serve event will surpass 2012's success – already 275 events are scheduled for the 2013 Day to Serve. Events open for press to attend include:

- September 20 at 9:00 a.m.: McDaniel College will spend a morning removing litter and debris in an effort to improve stream health. Event sponsored by McDaniel College.
 - Site Location: Railroad Ave, Westminster, MD 21157
- September 21 at 12:00 p.m.: The Port Towns (comprised of the Municipalities of Bladensburg, Colmar Manor, Cottage City, and Edmonston) will be collecting healthy food and items for infants during the Port Towns Day Festival . Event sponsored by Port Towns Communities.
 - Site Location: Bladensburg Waterfront Park, 4601 Annapolis Road, Bladensburg, MD 20710
- September 25 at 9:00 a.m.: Department of Human Resource Secretary Ted Dallas, Department of Human Resource employees, and Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services employees will lead efforts packing boxes of food at a local food

bank.

- Site Location: 2200 Halethorpe Farms Rd Baltimore, MD 21227
- September 26 at 10:00 a.m.: Atholton Elementary students will go on a field trip to the Patapsco River and work with the Patapsco Heritage Greenway to participate in stream clean-up, macroinvertebrate identification for stream health evaluation, and a scavenger hunt to identify various aspects of the level of biodiversity in the stream's ecosystem. Event sponsored by Atholton Elementary School.
 - Site Location: Patapsco Valley State Park, 5120 South Street, Baltimore MD 21227
- September 28 at 9:00 a.m.: Volunteers will harvest vegetables at Clagett Farm to be donated to the Capital Area Food Bank of Washington, D.C. , and will learn about sustainable agriculture. Event sponsored by Chesapeake Bay Foundation
 - Site Location: 11904 Old Malboro Pike, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772
- September 28 at 8:30 a.m.: Mid-Atlantic area Eagle Scout volunteers will mulch at the cliff top and base to counter the impact of erosion. Event sponsored by National Capital Area Council, Gathering of Eagles
 - Site Location: Carderock Recreation Area, C&O Canal National Park, Potomac, MD 20854

"We should want the best for others as we want the best for ourselves. The Day to Serve provides an opportunity for human-beings to show their humanity," **said Imam Hassan A. Amin, Executive Director of Muslim Social Service Agency and a Chaplain at Johns Hopkins University.**

"The Empowering Believers Church was blessed to participate in A Day To Serve in 2012. This year we are expanding our prayer garden and planting more trees," **said Apostle Larry Lee Thomas of Empowering Believers Church.** "We are looking forward to continue to make an impact on lifting up the awareness of hunger and caring for our environment. It's time to sound the alarm! It's time to get involved!"

"In the vocabulary of Jewish values, service is also worship," **said Rabbi Shulman, President of the Baltimore Jewish Council.** "Through our good works on behalf of others we express the goodness and hopes of our faith ideals. In serving and aiding others we demonstrate what we believe about ourselves and the community in which we live."

For information on how to participate in Day to Serve, or to find a project, visit www.daytoserve.org.

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Governor O'Malley Statement on the Passing of Former International Longshoremen's Association President Richard Hughes

September 16th, 2013

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Governor Martin O'Malley today issued a statement on the passing of Richard P. Hughes, Jr., former President of the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) and longshoreman at the Port of Baltimore.

"For over 50 years, Richie Hughes served as the voice of the men and women at the International Longshoremen's Association who work tirelessly to connect our State to cities and ports half a world away.

"Richie was fearless, always willing to laugh in the face of overwhelming odds, but his legendary toughness was always moderated by a classic Irish-American wit. He was both fierce negotiator – and caring friend. Richie worked every day of his life with the best interests of the longshoreworkers, his family, and friends close to his heart.

"Today our prayers are with Richie's family and all of those who called him a friend."

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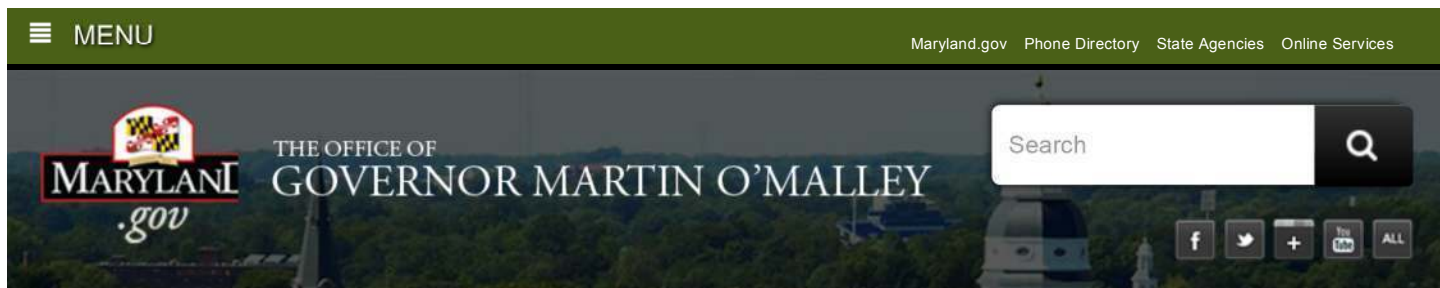
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Governor O'Malley Forms Commission for Effective Community Inclusion of Individuals with Intellectual and Development Disabilities

September 17th, 2013

Dr. Timothy Shriver, Chairman & CEO of Special Olympics, will serve as Chairman

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Governor Martin O'Malley today issued an Executive Order to improve training to help law enforcement personnel, paramedics, and other first responders better respond to situations involving individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities ("IDD"). The Executive Order creates the Maryland Commission for Effective Community Inclusion of Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (the "Commission"). Governor O'Malley also announced that he would name Dr. Timothy P. Shriver, Chairman & CEO of Special Olympics, as Chairman of the Commission.

Governor O'Malley created the Commission in part as a response to the circumstances surrounding the death of Frederick County resident Ethan Saylor, who happened to have Down syndrome. Dr. Shriver, a Maryland resident, has been designated the Chairman of this commission based on his [deep experience](#) in working in communities to build understanding, acceptance and inclusion of people with IDD.

Among other things, the Commission will be tasked with evaluating the current training received by people that interact with the IDD community and developing and issuing recommendations about the types of statewide training standards that Maryland should adopt to educate individuals in positions of authority—particularly those in public sector positions such as law enforcement officials, paramedics and other first responders—about the best approaches for safely managing situations involving individuals with IDD. The Commission will be composed of state and local officials, disability advocates, and other stakeholders.

"Mr. Saylor's death is tragic. I join the multitude of people in Maryland and across the country who mourn this loss of life and who seek ways to ensure that nothing like this ever happens again," **said Governor O'Malley**. "As a State, we know that there is still progress to be made to ensure that the dignity of every individual is protected."

Both the Frederick County Sheriff's Office and a Frederick County grand jury have investigated the circumstances surrounding Mr. Saylor's death. The issue has now grown larger than city, county, or even state government. The United States Department of Justice is currently investigating this incident. The state needs to take steps to evaluate the quality and effectiveness of its training and then to improve the training for law enforcement and other first responders — that is why Governor O'Malley is creating the Commission now, and that is why he has asked Dr. Shriver to serve as Chairman.

The Commission is required to submit an initial report, addressing statewide law enforcement guidelines and statewide training standards, by January 9, 2014, which would have been Mr.

Saylor's 27th birthday.

"I applaud Governor O'Malley's decision to form this committee," said Dr. Shriver. "If there is one lesson that all of us who live with, work with, and value people with IDD know, is that there remains a vast gap in understanding — a gap that all too frequently results in stigma, exclusion and painful injustice. Our mission will be to close that gap so that first responders will be the leaders and models of inclusion, acceptance, and support in their communities."

"Our family commends Governor O'Malley and his administration for listening to our call for action by establishing this important Commission," **said Patti Saylor, mother of Ethan Saylor.** "The Commission is one piece toward ensuring what happened to my son, Ethan, never happens to a member of the disability community again. Ethan deserved to be a welcomed member of our community, as do all people with IDD. I look forward to working with Dr. Shriver and the Commission as they move forward in their vital work. "

"As law enforcement professionals, it is incumbent on us to work diligently to ensure that we are cognizant of and adequately responding to the public safety needs of all the citizens we serve, including our citizens with IDD,"**Colonel Marcus Brown, Superintendent of the Maryland State Police said.** "I believe the work of this Commission will help Maryland citizens and police officers to better understand the needs of individuals with IDD, while ensuring we are as prepared as possible to respond to their needs. For almost 30 years, thousands of Maryland police officers have supported the efforts of the Law Enforcement Torch Run and Special Olympics Maryland, helping to provide year-round sports training and competition free of charge to thousands of children and adults with intellectual disabilities. The formation of this Commission will help us continue our support for this important segment of Maryland citizens."

Other responsibilities of the Commission will include (1) recommending statewide policies, guidance, or best practices regarding law enforcement and first responders' responses to situations involving individuals with IDD; and (2) developing a coordinated, collaborative, and comprehensive strategy to ensure enhanced responses to such situations, including consideration of expanding Crisis Intervention Teams and Mobile Crisis Teams.

Over 90,000 Marylanders have intellectual or developmental disabilities. In fact people with IDD represent up to three percent of the world's population, making it the largest disability population on earth. The O'Malley-Brown Administration recognizes that many individuals in positions of authority, including law enforcement officials and first responders, receive limited training about responding to situations involving individuals with IDD. The purpose of the Commission is to ensure that these officials are able to benefit from policies, guidelines, and training addressing these issues.

A copy of the executive order can be found [here](#).

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Statement from Governor Martin O'Malley on Shooting at Washington Navy Yard

September 17th, 2013

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Governor Martin O'Malley issued the following statement on yesterday's shooting at the Washington Navy Yard:

"Yesterday, Maryland and our nation witnessed a senseless act of violence in neighboring Washington, D.C. Our hearts and prayers are with the victims — including six Maryland residents — and their loved ones.

"This loss of life is tragic because there is no such thing as a spare American. Every life is needed.

"We are very grateful for the service of our first responders, including the brave men and women of our federal, state and city law enforcement. Maryland State Police helicopters assisted with medical evacuations, and other state law enforcement resources were on standby, as part of our regional readiness and cooperation efforts. We stand ready to support our neighbors in the ongoing investigation and recovery."

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Governor O'Malley Appoints Stephen S. Hershey as Senator for Legislative District 36

September 18th, 2013

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Governor Martin O'Malley today appointed Del. Stephen S. Hershey as Senator for Legislative District 36, representing parts of Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's and Caroline Counties. He will fill the vacancy left by Maryland Senator E.J. Pipkin, who resigned August 12, 2013. Mr. Hershey's term will begin effective immediately.

"I respect both Delegate Smigiel and Delegate Hershey," **said Governor O'Malley**. "Filling a Republican vacancy is a matter that should have been resolved by the Republican Central Central Committees of the District. Rather than resolving their differences, the Republican Central Committee has forwarded two names to my desk. In discharging my Constitutional duty of selecting just one of these candidates, I am guided not by which candidate I would prefer, but rather by which candidate has demonstrated the broadest electoral support in the district. In both the Central Committee balloting and the last general election, Del. Hershey has demonstrated a broader base of support, and therefore, I have decided to appoint Delegate Hershey to fill this Senate vacancy."

As stated in the Maryland Constitution Article III, Sec. 13, Governor O'Malley is required to make an appointment to fill a Senate vacancy from a written submission by the Central Committee of the political party affiliated with the vacating Senator.

Per Constitutional requirements, the Republican Central Committees for Kent, Caroline, Queen Anne's and Cecil County submitted names to Governor O'Malley within 30 days of the vacancy. The Central Committees split their decision: the Republican Central Committees for Kent County and Caroline County submitted Delegate Hershey for appointment and the Republican Central Committees for Queen Anne's County and Cecil County submitted Delegate Smigiel for appointment.

While each of the two delegates put forth were supported by two of the central committees, Delegate Hershey garnered more total votes from the four counties than any other candidate. In this case, the split required Governor O'Malley to make the appointment upon receiving the last Central Committee's submission.

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Governor O'Malley Announces \$5.5 Million in Early College, Digital Learning Grantees

September 18th, 2013

Investments to support cutting-edge education programs

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Governor Martin O'Malley today announced the first recipients of \$5.5 million in total grants from two funds—the Digital Learning Innovation Fund and the Early College Innovation Fund—designed to promote programs that prepare students for jobs in the 21st Century economy.

“In Maryland, we must ensure that our educators and institutions are equipped to provide students with the knowledge and skills that will fuel innovation in the future,” **said Governor O'Malley**. “By investing in programs that promote interactive digital learning and make it easier for students to train for high-demand fields, we are making the better choices that will expand opportunity and support our economy. Working together with our educators, parents and students, we can give our children the tools they need for the jobs of tomorrow.”

The Digital Learning Innovation Fund helps local school systems maximize the potential of new and emerging technologies to improve the teaching and learning environment and to better prepare all students for the workforce of today and the future. Six school systems plus the statewide SEED school will receive a total of \$3.5 million to fund initiatives that help them transition to comprehensive digital learning environments that fundamentally change the interaction between teachers and students.

The Early College Innovation Fund supports efforts in Maryland to increase access to postsecondary education and help students obtain the credentials necessary to compete for jobs in growing sectors of the state's economy. Six partnerships between local school systems and higher education institutions will receive a total of \$2 million to support programs that provide accelerated pathways for students seeking science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) disciplines or STEM-related career and technical education (CTE) programs.

“Our goal in Maryland is to ensure each one of our students has the opportunity to take that next step, be it college or a career, and these competitive grants will help us head in that direction,” **said State Superintendent of Schools Dr. Lillian M. Lowery**. “Cutting-edge educational technology and new early college programs offer additional models to help students to move forward.”

To promote early college access, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) is funding partnerships of local school systems and higher education institutions to create or expand early college high schools or other forms of early college access; Advanced Placement courses; and CTE programs. Grant recipients include:

- Chesapeake College Partnering with Caroline County Public Schools
- Community College of Baltimore County partnering with Baltimore County Public Schools

- Hagerstown Community College partnering with Washington County Public Schools
- Howard County Public Schools partnering with Howard Community College
- Montgomery County Public Schools partnering with Montgomery College
- Prince George's Community College partnering Prince George's County Public Schools, Chesapeake Math and Information Technology Academy, Bowie State University, Capitol College, University of Maryland University College, Lockheed Martin, Agemo Technology, Inc., and Prince George's County Government Office of Information Technology.

Recipients of the Digital Learning Innovation Grants include the SEED School of Maryland and school districts in Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Garrett, Kent and Washington counties.

Please see attachments for additional details on grant recipients and a one-pager on Governor O'Malley's efforts to give our children the tools they need to succeed in a 21st Century economy.

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Governor O'Malley Appoints Judges in Calvert and Washington Counties

September 19th, 2013

Highly Qualified, Diverse Candidates Selected to Serve

ANNAPOLIS, MD (September 19, 2013) – Governor Martin O'Malley today announced the appointment of three trial court judges in Calvert and Washington Counties. Mark Stephen Chandlee will serve on the Circuit Court for Calvert County, Michelle Renee Saunders will serve on the District Court for Calvert County, and Terry Allen Myers will serve on the District Court for Washington County.

All of the newly appointed judges were recommended to Governor O'Malley by the local trial court judicial nominating commissions.

"I am pleased to appoint such an accomplished and diverse group of candidates," said Governor O'Malley. "These appointees will bring to the bench a broad range of legal expertise and a true commitment to public service."

Mark Stephen Chandlee has been in private practice since 1992 and a partner in the firm Zoglio & Chandlee, LLC since 2006. Earlier in his career, Mr. Chandlee spent three years as an Assistant State's Attorney for Prince George's County, where he prosecuted cases in the Narcotics Unit and later in the Major Crimes Unit. Mr. Chandlee received a law degree from the University of Baltimore School of Law and a Bachelor of Science degree from Frostburg State College.

Michelle Renee Saunders has served the majority of her career as a prosecutor in the Calvert County State's Attorney's Office, where she currently is Chief of the District Court Division. She also has two years of experience in private practice as a Partner in the law firm Lamson & Saunders. Ms. Saunders is an active member of the Calvert County Bar Association, having formerly served as President and as a member of the Board of Directors. Ms. Saunders received a Juris Doctor from Georgetown University Law Center and earned her undergraduate degree from High Point College.

Terry Allen Myers has thirty years of experience in private practice in Western Maryland. Since 1998, he has been a partner at Myers & Proctor P.A. Mr. Myers began his legal career as a Law Clerk for the Circuit Court for Washington County. Prior to attending law school, Mr. Myers spent six years in the U.S. Naval Reserve. He received his law degree from the University of Maryland School of Law and his Bachelor of Arts degree from Shepherd College.

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Statement from Governor Martin O'Malley on Preliminary August Jobs Report

September 20th, 2013

ANNAPOLIS, MD (September 20, 2013) – Governor Martin O'Malley today issued the following statement on the U.S. Department of Labor's release of preliminary employment data for the month of August:

"Last month, Marylanders created 9,700 new jobs. Together, we have now recovered 100 percent of the jobs we lost as a result of the national recession. Today, there are 43,300 more Marylanders working than this time last year, and our unemployment rate has been driven down to 7 percent, below the national rate."

"Today's jobs report also reaffirms the strength of Maryland's dynamic private sector. Over the past 12 months, our businesses have created 37,800 jobs — nearly 9 out of every 10 new jobs created in our state."

"As we reach this milestone in Maryland's economic recovery, we must remember that our work is not done. We need to continue our work building an economy that creates even more middle class opportunities, and creates prosperity for Maryland from the middle out."

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Governor O'Malley Statement on Environmental Protection Agency's Announcement of a Carbon Pollution Standard for New Power Plants

September 20th, 2013

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Governor Martin O'Malley today released the following statement on the Environmental Protection Agency's announcement of a carbon pollution standard for new power plants:

"We in Maryland commend President Obama and the Environmental Protection Agency for taking this important step forward to limit carbon pollution from future power plants. Power plants are the nation's largest source of carbon pollution, representing 34 percent of the nation's greenhouse gas emissions. By targeting the number one source of greenhouse gas emissions, President Obama is moving the United States in the right direction toward strongly emphasizing renewable energy, improving air quality for our vulnerable populations, and mitigating the effects of severe weather events and flooding on our coastlines and low-lying areas. We are committed to partnering with him so that together, we can make the better choices these times demand."

"By making these better choices we are delivering better results. We recently released our Maryland Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan, a roadmap for how we move forward. Our Plan will create an estimated 37,000 jobs, generate \$1.6 billion into Maryland's economy, and enable us to achieve our goal of reducing greenhouse emissions 25 percent by 2020."

"The climate-related actions in the Plan show that we can use the prospect of a carbon constrained world as the means to invent a more prosperous future, to drive innovation, education, industry, jobs, and expansion of opportunity. We're reducing carbon pollution from our participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, which is generating revenues for investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy sources, our Renewable Portfolio Standard and our energy efficiency goals."

"Working together with the utilities in our State, we've made the better choices to reduce harmful emissions. By investing approximately \$2.6 billion in pollution controls to meet the requirements of the Healthy Air Act, Maryland utilities reduced emissions of nitrogen oxides by almost 70 percent and sulfur dioxide and mercury emissions by 80 percent since the first phase of the Maryland Healthy Air Act implementation."

"In Maryland, we know we have a moral obligation to our children and to our grandchildren to give to them a planet that is not on the trajectory that we currently find ourselves on; a planet that is becoming increasingly more damaged, more

polluted, more unhealthy. The President's plan is a commonsense approach that will protect public health from the impacts of climate change and spur growth by fostering innovation in cleaner energy technologies like wind power and solar."

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Governor O'Malley Issues Executive Order to Promote Workforce Development and Community Hiring

September 23rd, 2013

ANNAPOLIS, MD – As part of the O'Malley-Brown Administration's ongoing focus on job training, Governor Martin O'Malley today issued an Executive Order directing State agencies to promote apprenticeship programs and encourage hiring in priority areas. The Order is part of the Administration's ongoing efforts to strengthen the middle class by ensuring Marylanders have the skills necessary to compete in the 21st Century economy.

Under the Executive Order, State agencies are encouraged to award credit in the procurement process to contractors that agree to participate in registered apprenticeship programs. The Executive Order also encourages contractors to submit voluntary plans for community outreach and hiring in areas of high unemployment.

"In Maryland, our people are our greatest asset," said Governor O'Malley. "When investing in our State infrastructure, we must also seize the opportunity to develop critical job skills needed in construction, and to expand employment opportunities for Marylanders, particularly in areas with high unemployment. This Executive Order will allow us to continue our efforts to expand opportunities for middle class families, and build an economy that creates prosperity for Maryland from the middle out."

The procurement guidelines direct State agencies to consider on a project-by-project basis whether promoting apprenticeship programs and community hiring is in the best interests of the State, after considering a broad range of factors, including the size and complexity of the project and the impact on project costs, if any. Contractors who agree to participate in apprenticeship programs are authorized to execute either a project labor agreement or an apprenticeship agreement with an operator of a program that is registered with the Maryland Apprenticeship and Training Council.

Executive Order available online here: [EO 01.01.2013.05.pdf](#)

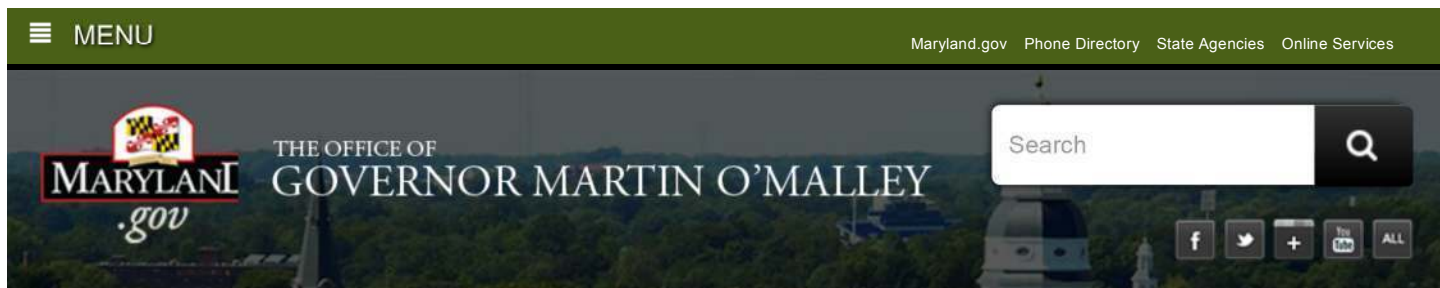
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Governor Martin O'Malley Highlights 100 Percent Jobs Recovery and EARN Maryland Workforce Training Initiative

September 23rd, 2013

New initiative will allow employers to lead workforce training programs designed to create jobs and expand opportunity

BALTIMORE, MD – Governor Martin O'Malley today visited Tulkoff Food Products in Dundalk to highlight the EARN (Employment Advancement Right Now) Maryland workforce training initiative, which creates industry-led regional job creation and workforce development partnerships that help to identify common workforce needs for high-demand occupations such as construction, traditional and advanced manufacturing, cyber security, and health care; and develop and implement education or training strategies to address workforce shortages.

Today's event comes on the heels of news last week that Maryland has recovered 100 percent of the jobs lost in the national recession.

"Thanks to our dynamic private sector, Maryland has recovered the jobs lost during the recession a year earlier than our end of 2014 goal. But we do not think of it as a mission accomplished — we're now focused on moving beyond 100 percent, to continue to expand opportunity and to grow our increasingly diverse middle class," said Governor O'Malley. "Homegrown companies like Tulkoff are the backbone of our economy, and it's in our interest to help ensure their success. The EARN Maryland initiative will help Maryland workers develop the skills they need for today's high-demand industries, and help employers find skilled workers. I remain grateful to Senator Kathy Klausmeier, Delegate John Olszewski, Delegate Keiffer Mitchell, and Delegate Luke Clippinger for all of their incredible work on this bill to create this program last session — because of their hard work we are able to provide this investment to ensure that Maryland companies will compete and win in the New Economy."

Tulkoff Food Products is a family-owned business that produces condiments and sauces, such as horseradish, cocktail sauce, and pesto, primarily for the food-service industry.

"Tulkoff Food Products is the quintessential small business that's the backbone of our state and our country. We pay an honest wage for a day's work. But without the right people; qualified, motivated and skilled, we can't compete in today's economy," said Phil Tulkoff, CEO and President of Tulkoff Food Products. "That's why the EARN Maryland program is a great step toward providing employers like Tulkoff Food Products and sectors like manufacturing, with the talent we need to continue our success and grow our business right here in Baltimore."

The EARN Maryland initiative is managed by the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (DLLR), and encourages regional workforce training collaborations among businesses, non-profits, institutions of higher education, community college, local workforce investment boards, local governments, and various types of workforce training providers. Supported by the Maryland Chamber of Commerce, EARN Maryland is a proven strategy for providing Maryland's employers with skilled workers. Among similar initiatives around the

country, this approach led to skills advancement, career building opportunities and increased wages.

Sector strategies are among the few interventions with a growing body of evidence showing improved employment opportunities and wages for workers as well as increased productivity and other positive outcomes for employers. An estimated 1,000 regional sector partnerships are operating across the country. More than 25 states are exploring or implementing sector strategies as a way to address industry needs through education and training programs.

EARN Maryland planning grants will be awarded on a competitive basis through an application process. DLLR will release the EARN Maryland planning grant solicitations by October 15 and awards will be announced by December 2013. For more information on the planning grant process, please visit www.earn.maryland.gov.

"EARN Maryland will allow employers to lead workforce training programs designed to create jobs and expand opportunity," said State Sen. Kathy Klausmeier. "I am pleased that we were able to work together to provide this investment to ensure that Maryland companies, like Tulkoff Food Products, will compete and win in the new economy."

"I'm proud to have played an active role in EARN Maryland's development from the very beginning. This program will create a system that facilitates state collaboration with businesses, local governments, and non-profits to establish industry partnerships that will advance the skills of our state's workforce and grow Maryland's economy," said Del. John Olszewski, Jr. "EARN Maryland can be a powerful program for our residents because it will both allow existing workers to propel from their current positions to more technical, better paid jobs, and because it will also provide additional employment opportunities for others who are currently unemployed or underemployed."

"EARN Maryland will help bridge the gap between workforce needs and the skills possessed by Maryland workers. It's a smart way for businesses to develop a workforce with the exact skills they need — and for unemployed and underemployed Marylanders to gain the skills they need to succeed on the jobs of today's economy," said Del. Keiffer Mitchell. "The initiative is bringing together state and local government, businesses, and nonprofits to compete for grant money that will enable them to create workforce training programs for their industry sectors, and to create new opportunities for more Marylanders."

"Many thanks to Governor O'Malley and my legislative colleagues for making EARN Maryland a reality. As a co-sponsor of the EARN legislation last session, I'm extremely proud of what this program will do for Maryland families and for Maryland businesses. The workforce training collaborations established through EARN Maryland will enable Maryland workers to gain the skills necessary for employment and advancement into sustainable jobs," said Del. Luke Clippinger. "As a result of more coordinated and targeted training, EARN Maryland will create sustainable jobs by closing the gap between the needs of employers, and the skills of Maryland's workforce. It's an economic win-win."

The O'Malley-Brown Administration is making the better choices that are delivering better results to create jobs, expand opportunity, and strengthen Maryland's middle class. In the first quarter of this year, Maryland created jobs at the fastest rate in our region. Over the past 12 months, Maryland has created 43,300 jobs, with the private sector creating nearly 9 out of every 10 new jobs. Maryland's unemployment rate of 7 percent remains below the national average.

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Governor O'Malley Statement on Center for American Progress Report: The State of Women in America

September 25th, 2013

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Governor Martin O'Malley released the following statement on The Center for American Progress' report released today entitled: The State of Women In America:

"In Maryland, we understand that our diversity is our greatest strength and the accomplishments of women are an integral part of our progress as a people.

"Today, Lt. Governor Anthony G. Brown and I were thrilled to learn that the Center for American Progress (CAP) released a report naming Maryland as the best place in the nation for women. CAP said that 'on matters of economics, leadership, and health, women, on average, fare the best in Maryland.'

"We're continuing to focus every day on strengthening Maryland's middle class by investing in education, innovation, and infrastructure. Working together, we have made great strides in making Maryland a great place for women to live, lead, and learn — we know we can continue to achieve even better results by continuing to make better choices."

Learn more about the Center for American Progress Report: The State of Women in America:
<http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/women/report/2013/09/25/74836/the-state-of-women-in-america/>

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Governor O'Malley Highlights Efforts to Strengthen the Middle Class by Investing in Education

September 27th, 2013

Second policy forum in a series that focuses on the Administration's strategic goals

WALDORF, MD (September 26, 2013) — Governor Martin O'Malley today hosted the "Better Choices, Better Results Forum – Education" — the second in a series of statewide forums aimed at fostering an ongoing, collaborative dialogue on the O'Malley-Brown Administration's efforts to strengthen the middle class by pursuing its strategic goals. During the event, stakeholders from across the state engaged in a roundtable discussion about the better choices made, measuring progress and delivering results to strengthen and grow Maryland's middle class and create a better, stronger Maryland for our children.

"One of the most important things we can do to strengthen the middle class is to provide every Maryland child with the opportunity to get a great education — that's why we made the choice to invest in education, even in tough times," **said Governor Martin O'Malley**. "That investment is paying dividends with better results: we have had the number one rated public schools in the country for five straight years, eight out of ten children are entering Kindergarten ready to learn and we've made college affordable by holding tuition for our public colleges and universities to the lowest levels in the nation."

This forum highlighted key education initiatives, showed Maryland's progress on early childhood education, college and career readiness and college affordability, and fostered an ongoing dialogue to lay out a vision to sustain and continue to grow Maryland's number one public education system into the future.

Recent Advanced Placement data shows that Maryland continues to make progress on our goal to prepare students for college and career. This week, the U.S. Department of Education announced Eleven Maryland schools have earned a prestigious 2013 National Blue Ribbon designation. And working together with Maryland's hard working educators, Maryland has made more progress on low-income student achievement than any other state in the nation.

"Maryland is fully committed to raising the bar for our students, preparing them for the world that awaits beyond their high school doors," said **State Superintendent of Schools Lillian M. Lowery**. "Strong instruction based on higher standards means a better future for our graduates and our communities."

With better choices, the O'Malley-Brown Administration has built what Education Week magazine says is the best public school system in America for the fifth year in a row. These better choices are leading to better results. Eight out of 10 of our youngest students are entering Kindergarten ready to learn compared to five out of 10 a decade ago. Maryland's elementary school students have raised their MSA scores nearly 40 percent in both reading and math, and our middle school students have increased their MSA scores in math by more than 80 percent. What's more, Maryland's high school students have been ranked number one

in the nation in AP success for seven consecutive years and are graduating at the highest rate in our State's history. In addition, alone among the 50 states, Maryland froze in-state tuition at state colleges and universities four years in a row and has held tuition increases to the **lowest** in the nation for more than five years. We also invested more in public education, more in innovation, and more in infrastructure than ever before in our State's history.

Learn more about the Better Choices Better Results Forums at: <http://www.governor.maryland.gov/forums.html>

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Governor O'Malley, New Jersey Governor Christie, Virginia Governor McDonnell Sign Letter of Support for Universities' Collaboration on Unmanned Aircraft System Testing

September 27th, 2013

MOU strengthens Mid-Atlantic region's potential to be selected as FAA test site

Annapolis, MD – Governor Martin O'Malley today joined New Jersey Governor Chris Christie and Virginia Governor Robert McDonnell in submitting a [letter](#) supporting a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in which the University System of Maryland, Rutgers University and Virginia Tech University agreed to collaborate and partner on a Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) test site. The letter, sent to U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx and FAA Administrator Michael Huerta, highlighted the cooperative UAS research conducted by the three universities.

"With the potential to create more than 2,500 well-paying jobs in Maryland over the next 12 years, the Unmanned Aircraft Systems sector has the potential to have a significant positive economic impact on our state," said **Governor O'Malley**. "This is an exciting agreement between three world-class educational institutions that takes advantage of the unparalleled capabilities in Maryland, New Jersey and Virginia for research, development and testing, and positions the Mid-Atlantic region as the ideal location for an Unmanned Aircraft Systems test site."

In Maryland, the Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division (NAWCAD) at Naval Air Station Patuxent River is recognized as the world's leading center of UAS activity. At both the university level and among federal facilities, Maryland has been testing and developing UAS technology for more than two decades. Maryland's UAS proposal, submitted to the FAA in May, includes the University System of Maryland campuses in College Park, Baltimore County and Eastern Shore, general aviation airports in Crisfield and St. Mary's County, federal and industry partners and community organizations such as the Southern Maryland Navy Alliance, the Patuxent Partnership, and the Joint Atlantic and Chesapeake Range Collaborative.

"We are thankful to our entire Congressional delegation, especially Congressman Steny Hoyer, who worked diligently to grow this coalition, the universities for their spirit of cooperation, and to partner companies in each state whose support is testament to the potential of this initiative," said **Governor O'Malley**.

"This memorandum of understanding between the University System of Maryland, Rutgers University, and Virginia Tech significantly strengthens our bid for one of six UAS test site designations chosen by the Federal Aviation Administration," stated **Congressman Hoyer**. "With the presence of three outstanding higher education institutions; federal facilities, such as Pax River Naval Air Station and Webster Field; and strong industry partners, I'm optimistic that

we are strongly positioned in the bidding process. I thank Governor O'Malley, Governor Christie, and Governor McDonnell, as well as our three universities, for partnering on this effort, which has the potential to spur private sector development through the commercialization of autonomous systems and boost job creation in our region.”

Under the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012, Congress authorized the FAA to develop a comprehensive plan to integrate UAS into the National Airspace System. In February 2013, the FAA opened the selection process for the six UAS Test Sites that will conduct research and testing of technologies to support the UAS integration.

“The partnership between the University System of Maryland and leading institutions in Virginia and New Jersey will help increase the safety, efficiency, reliability and security of our nation's airspace,” **Senator Barbara Mikulski** said. “Because of Maryland's incredible federal assets, dynamic private sector and academic institutions, Maryland is well-suited to work together with the FAA on the Unmanned Aircraft Systems. Through this Mid-Atlantic collaboration, we will enhance the safety of our nation's airspace, while supporting Maryland's economic security through jobs today and jobs tomorrow.”

“Maryland has the world-class facilities, supporting systems, and controlled airspace necessary to satisfy the stringent requirements needed to become an FAA test site for unmanned aircraft systems. I applaud the collaboration between the University System of Maryland, Rutgers University and Virginia Tech that will enable this cutting-edge project to move forward, improving the safety and efficiency of our national airspace network, and helping to create more than 2,500 jobs in Maryland,” said **Senator Ben Cardin**. “I am proud that Team Maryland has been able to facilitate this project at the federal level, bringing together diverse and innovative research teams who will balance new technology, national security and infrastructure needs, along with public policy and legal concerns.”

With the University of Maryland, College Park, taking the lead, Maryland applied to be selected by the FAA as one of six test sites for Unmanned Aircraft Systems. New Jersey and Virginia submitted a joint application as the Mid-Atlantic Aviation Partnership, under Virginia Tech. The three universities subsequently determined that the region's competitive position is significantly enhanced as a multi-state entity which leverages the competitive strengths of each state. The universities have agreed to work as a united Joint Test Team in the event either or both teams are selected by the FAA as a Test Site for UAS.

Fifty applications across 37 states were submitted to the FAA through May 6, 2013, and 25 applicants remain. A decision is due December 31, 2013.

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